

There are still many unanswered questions concerning this accident, yet one thing is certain. These men and women died for the honor and glory of giving to others. This is an example from which we can all learn.

In remembrance of this tragedy, I would like to once again express my heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of those lost. May they all rest in peace.

HONORING THE RIDDELTON/DIXON SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Riddleton/Dixon Springs Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within 1 year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

COMMENDATION FOR POLICE OFFICER JOSEPH WITTE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Philadelphia's finest police officers, Joseph Witte, on the celebration of his retirement from the force on March 22, 1996.

Joe's dedication and hard work on the police force lasted over 26 years. His police work in Philadelphia started when Joe was appointed to the police department on September 29, 1969. Four months later, he graduated from the police academy and was assigned to the sixth district where he patrolled the streets of Center City.

On July 19, 1971, Joe was transferred to the accident investigation division to inves-

tigate fatal, serious injury and hit and run traffic accidents. He was one of the first police officers to be certified as a breathalyzer operator where he performed sobriety tests on persons arrested for driving under the influence. Less than 10 years on the force, Joe was promoted to corporal and assigned to the police radio room supervising call takers and dispatchers for the northeast division. Shortly after his promotion to corporal, Joe was transferred on January 30, 1975, to the 25th district and supervised that district's operation center and cell room.

Moving up the ladder at the police department continued for Joe when he was promoted to detective and assigned to the east detective division on October 18, 1976. In 1979, Joe was transferred to the homicide division. On March 1980, he returned to the detective division and was selected as one of the first detectives assigned to a divisional, special investigation unit by then Lt. Edward McLaughlin—now deputy commissioner of license and investigation. His responsibilities ranged from investigating high profile cases to multiple crimes and acting as a liaison with other police departments.

Joe's next step up the ladder with the police force was his promotion to sergeant in 1981. He served as a patrol supervisor in the 15th district in northeast Philadelphia and 16th district in west Philadelphia. In 1986, Joe was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and again returned back to the east detective division.

On September 19, 1989, Joe was transferred back to the homicide division where he presided over the operations and investigations of No. 1 platoon. During his tenure at homicide, Joe supervised many high profile murder cases with No. 1 platoon and led his division in solved investigations. As a lieutenant with the homicide division, Joe dealt with both the broadcast and print media on a daily basis. Joe became well known to the reporters on the police beat and was often complimented for his relationship with him.

Finally, on December 19, 1994, Joe was transferred back to the east detective division and commanded that division's special investigations unit, which was responsible for the arrests in the Quaker Lace fire, The narcotic processing unit, robbery, burglary and stolen auto teams. He also acted as the division's executive officer taking over the command duties in the absence to the captain.

Now Joe is starting his career as the director of the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children. He works with the State department of education which pays for the training of student assistance teams in schools throughout the commonwealth. Also, this group provides the training facility, lodging, meals and recreation for the police officers throughout the State while they train to be D.A.R.E. officers.

Joseph Witte's accomplishments as a dedicated and valiant officer of the Philadelphia Police Department have earned him well-deserved respect and praise from his peers. Mr. Speaker, I wish Joe all the best in his retirement from the Philadelphia Police Department.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: JANIE A. GREENE

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to an individual who serves as an inspiration to many. Her life of 101 years leaves an indelible impression on all with whom she comes in contact. Her life is a testament that humanness is a factor that matters most in life. Mrs. Janie A. Greene is a model human and a great point of light whose contributions to this Earth must not go unacknowledged.

For over 55 years, Mrs. Greene has worked tirelessly for the People's Institutional A.M.E. Church. She is a pillar of support in the church and has become a reliable church laborer. Throughout her five-decade service, Janie Greene has been involved with the Shut-In Club and the South Carolina Club. She has been a member of the stewardess board, trustee, auxiliary, and the missionary society. Presently, Ms. Greene is a charter member of the South Carolina Club and a member of the Virginia Smith Missionary Society.

Admirably, Janie Greene is one who knows how to enjoy life in its purest form: She is the matriarch of a prosperous family. She serves as a guiding light to those whom she welcomed into this world: her children, Thelma Greene McQueen, deceased, Clifton S. Greene, Oreda Greene Dabney, and Myrtle Green Whitmore; 11 grandchildren and scores of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. At the very least, Walley Greene, Janie's husband who passed on in 1931, has a lineage which is very well preserved.

Born in Georgetown, SC, to Prince and Clara Browne, Mrs. Janie Greene has been a beloved resident of Brooklyn for over 60 years. During this time, Janie has lived in appreciation of every hour of life. This is evident in the way she chooses to enjoy precious moments. Under no circumstances does she reserve enjoyment to those her junior. Janie enjoys gardening, reading, listening to the radio, and watching television. Mrs. Greene's favorite pastimes further include attending public events, shopping, and decorating. Preparing daily brunch for the family and sending greeting cards are also regular forms of recreation for Janie Greene.

Service to God, family, and community can be a difficult task to accomplish. Consistently, Janie Greene has made it appear to be effortless. I sincerely appreciate the richness, beauty, and dedication that mark Mrs. Greene's life. Janie Greene is a great point of light for all of the people of America to revere.

IN HONOR OF NORTH MIAMI FOUNDATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, May is Older Americans Month and on May 1, 1996, the North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizens' Services will celebrate 21 years of community service at its 18th annual volunteer recognition luncheon.